

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

FOLLOWING ARE REPORTS FROM TRAVELERS MONITORED MONDAY MORN-
ING:

1. ANDERSON (GROUP W NEWS FROM BEN GURION AIRPORT): HENRY
KISSINGER BEGINS A NEW AND POSSIBLY FINAL PHASE OF HIS
ATTEMPT TO GET A SEPARATION OF FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
ISRAEL AND SYRIA. THE THORNY AND CRUCIAL ISSUE OF WHERE
THE CEASEFIRE LINE SHALL BE HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SETTLED TO
THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH SIDES BY MEANS OF AN AMERICAN
COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH BROKE A DEADLOCK THAT WAS CERTAIN
TO BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS TO A STOP. KISSINGER IS NOW
TAKING UP THE OTHER ISSUES -- THE LIMITATION OF ARMS IN
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THE NEIGHBOURING ZONES, THE U.N. PRESENCE, AND THE EXCHANGE

OF PRISONERS -- RELATIVELY SIMPLE MATTERS COMPARED TO THE EMOTIONAL ISSUES RAISED BY THE LOCATION OF THE CEASEFIRE LINE.

THIS FINAL PHASE COULD TAKE AS MANY AS FOUR ROUND TRIPS BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM. KISSINGER HAS DONE SIX ALREADY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE PROCESS WILL LAST MOST

OF THIS WEEK AND THE FINAL SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT COULD COME NEXT WEEK IN GENEVA AND KISSINGER WILL PROBABLY NOT BE PRESENT. OFFICIALS ABOARD KISSINGER'S PLANE EXPRESS OPTIMISM THAT THERE WILL BE A FINAL SUCCESS BUT IT IS NOT IN THE BAG YET. ISRAEL CONTINUES ITS RETALIATION RAIDS ON ALLEGED TERRORISTS CAMPS IN LEBANON AND THE SYRIANS MAY BE FORCED TO REACT TO THAT. THERE IS STILL DOMESTIC OPPOSITION IN ISRAEL TO ANY SETTLEMENT BUT OPPONENTS APPEAR TO BE A SMALL BUT VOCAL MINORITY.

2. KALB (CBS - TV JERUSALEM): KISSINGER SPENT MOST OF SUNDAY CONFERRING WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS INCLUDING PM MEIR. AFTER A MEETING OF HER CABINET THE FOLLOWING WAS REVEALED: ISRAEL HAS NOW FORMALLY AGREED TO A LINE PROPOSED BY KISSINGER THAT WOULD SEPARATE ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FORCES ON THE GOLAN FRONT. A NORTH-SOUTH LINE THAT WOULD BE PLACED ABOUT 150 YARDS WEST OF KUNEITRA, MEANING KUNEITRA WOULD BE RE-OCCUPIED BY SYRIAN CIVILIANS AND THE THREE CONTROVERSIAL HILLS TO THE WEST OF KUNEITRA WOULD REMAIN IN ISRAELI HANDS. THIS WAS THE ESSENCE OF KISSINGER'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WHICH WAS ACCEPTED BY PRESIDENT ASAD OF SYRIA. IN ADDITION THE ISRAELIS UNDERSTAND THAT UPON COMPLETION OF THIS AGREEMENT THERE WILL BE AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE FOLLOWED BY AN IMMEDIATE EXCHANGE OF POWS; THE POWS BEING A HIGHLY INFLAMMATORY ISSUE IN ISRAEL.

MANY ISRAELIS ARE HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA, HUNDREDS HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATING IN FRONT OF MRS. MEIR'S OFFICE FOR OVER A WEEK NOW, URGING KISSINGER NOT TO SELL OUT ISRAEL'S INTERESTS. YESTERDAY THEIR OFFICIAL PERMISSION TO DEMONSTRATE EXPIRED AND WHEN THEY UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGAN TO CHANT AND HECKLE MEMBERS OF THE CABINET THE POLICE MOVED IN. THE DEMONSTRATORS LOCKED ARM IN ARM WERE HUSTLED AWAY, OVER FORTY OF THEM ARRESTED. TODAY KISSINGER RETURNS TO DAMASCUS OPENING THE FINAL PHASE OF THIS NEGOTIATION, THE MOST DIFFICULT OF MY CAREER HE SAYS. (KALB HAD SIMILAR SPOT ON RADIO.)

3. KALB (CBS - RADIO FROM DAMASCUS): KISSINGER ARRIVED IN

DAMASCUS. AS USUAL HE WAS MET BY FM KHADDAM. AS USUAL HE WAS WHISKED BY HEAVILY GUARDED MOTORCADE TO A LUNCH AND TO A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASAD IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. AND THUS BEGAN THE CLIMATIC WEEK OF KISSINGER'S LONG-EST DIPLOMATIC SHUTTLE. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS ASKED HIM TO STAY OUT HERE FOR AS LONG A TIME AS IT IS NECESSARY TO

TO GET THIS DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. OVER THE PAST WEEKEND HE MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS GETTING SYRIA'S PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT AND ISRAEL'S FULL AGREEMENT TO A LINE SEPARATING THE TWO ARMIES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. NOW THE SECRETARY BEGINS TO GET INTO WHAT ARE CALLED THE IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOLS. ALREADY THERE IS AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON SEVERAL OF THESE ISSUES: A BUFFER ZONE RANGING FROM TWO TO SIX KILOMETERS ON EITHER SIDE OF THE BUFFER, A LIMITED FORCES ZONE IN WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO LIMIT MANPOWER AND FIREPOWER, AN EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS AND A CEASE-FIRE, NO REAL PROBLEM ABOUT EITHER OF THOSE. TODAY'S SHUTTLE MAY BE ONLY THE FIRST OF FOUR THIS WEEK BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM AS KISSINGER ZEROES IN ON HIS DEAL. END REPORTAGE. RUSH

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